13. **The Railway.**—I have referred elsewhere to the Sinking Fund which has been provided for paying off the liability outstanding against the Government on account of the Railway from Shencotta to Quilon ; also, to the action which His Highness has been pleased to direct to be taken in regard to the extension of the line to Trivandrum. The Assembly will be glad to know that the deficit which the Government have to make good to make up the guaranteed interest on account of the Shencotta—Quilon Section, has been steadily going down for the last few years. As pointed out by me in my address last year, the deficit for 1086 (B. Rs. 1,66,000) was lower than that of any previous year. In 1087 the deficit further went down—to B. Rs. 1,46,000. The largeness of the improvement will be realised when it is remembered that, in 1082, the deficit made good was B. Rs. 2,38,000. His Highness' Government have every reason to hope that, not only will the Trivandrum Extension pay well on its capital outlay, but that it will help substantially to reduce the loss on the older section.

14. **The Anchal Department.**—The main change in this Department was the introduction of service labels. Not only have we now correct figures as to the number of official covers sent by Anchal, but the Department is more than self-supporting. Its receipts in 1087 amounted to Rs. 1,62,059, and its expenditure to Rs. 1,33,111. Another important change was the introduction of the system of the reciprocal issue and payment of hundies between the offices of Travancore and Cochin.

15. **Vaccination.**—The Vaccination Department was reorganised during the year, the number of the Vaccinators and that of the Inspecting officers being both substantially increased. Action is being taken to construct suitable buildings for the Vaccine Depot outside the town of Trivandrum, with well-fitted Bacteriological and Chemical laboratories and the requisite appliances.

16. **Town Improvement Committees.**—Two new Committees were formed, Vaikom and Shencotta, with the result that, during the year, 10 Committees were working, as against only five a few years ago. Action is also being taken to introduce Regulation III of 1076 into several more of our smaller towns. I am glad to be in a position to say that the work of the Committees has generally been satisfactory. Considering that so many of them are quite new to their work, and also that even the older Committees have to work on new lines, it should be a matter for gratification to you to know that the Committees make so few mistakes. I look on the Town Improvement Committees as most useful training ground for the people in learning to administer their local affairs.

17. **Education.**—Chapter VII of the Report dealing with Education has been written somewhat more fully than in previous years. I would particularly invite the attention of the Members to what I say about the policy of His Highness' Government, in paras 251 to 261 of the Report. Not only is the volume of education increasing in the State, but a marked improvement has set in in regard to the quality. There has been a substantial increase in the number and strength of the Recognised Schools ; also, a great deal has been done, and more will be done, to improve the pay and prospects generally of the teachers. The expenditure on Education has been rising steadily in recent years. In 1084 it was Rs. 7,41,764; in 1087 it went up to Rs. 9,55,951; the increase has been 28%. His Highness' Government are aware that much more of expenditure is inevitable in the near future, and they are prepared for it.

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